



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

Exhibit #IV.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: July 9, 2008

SUBJECT: Request for Approval to Proceed with Emergency Rulemaking of Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, in accordance with Legislative Resolve #223.

Statement of Facts

Legislative Resolve #223, Resolve, To Ensure Support for a Model of Consolidated and Integrated Secondary and Postsecondary Education, requires that the State Board of Education amend Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects. The Resolve requires that the Department of Education shall recommend to the State Board of Education an innovative model of consolidated and integrated secondary and postsecondary education that includes facilities for:

1. A regional high school;
2. A fully integrated career and technical high school;
3. A higher education center that will provide courses and degrees from both the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System; and
4. Centers of excellence that will provide industry-specific training.

The model selected must:

1. Promote the development of a “one campus” design, where all facilities are located on one site, providing a streamlined and integrated learning experience for students of all ages;
2. Integrate and consolidate administrative responsibilities on the campus wherever possible, thereby reducing costs for overhead and shared functions;
3. Be located in a region with high schools whose consolidation would benefit future generations of students and provide reduced costs to the communities involved;

Exhibit IV.A.

Request for Approval to Proceed with Emergency Rulemaking of Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, in accordance with Legislative Resolve #223.

July 9, 2008

Page -2-

4. Have an advisory body that is integrated with the local economy, including the community involvement of students, citizens, business leaders, teachers, parents and organizations to promote both employment opportunities for students and citizens and a skilled workforce optimal for economic development; and
5. Serve as an example for other school districts and areas of the State.

In accordance with Sec. 3 of Resolve #223, the Board will be adopting these major substantive rules on an emergency basis for 90 days to ensure that an innovative model can be implemented as soon as funds are made available.

Construction Committee Recommendation

At the meeting of June 24, 2008, the Construction Committee gained consensus to forward the Draft Rules Chapter 61 to the State Board of Education for consideration on July 9, 2008.

Recommendations

It is recommended by the Department of Education that the State Board of Education approve the attached proposed amendment to Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, as emergency rules. It is further recommended by the Department of Education that the State Board of Education authorize proceeding with rulemaking in accordance with the State of Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

* Prepared by the School Facilities Services Team